

Appln. No.: 10/687,566
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2005

REMARKS

In the Office Action of April 22, 2005, claims 1-53 were deemed subject to a restriction. More specifically, restriction is required for Group I (Claims 1-29, 30-31, 35-36, 42-45, and 50-53), Group II (Claims 38-41) and Group III (Claims 32-34, 37, 46-49).

By this Response, the Applicants provisionally elect Group I without traverse. Claims 32-34, 37-41 and 46-49 have been cancelled. The Applicants' election is without prejudice or admission with respect to the Applicant's right to re-file the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment is at least found in paragraphs 7-9 and 75-81 of the specification, thus no new matter has been added. Claims depending from claim 1 have been amended, where appropriate, to correspond to the amendment in claim 1.

Claims 35 and 36 have been amended to correct a typographical error regarding dependency.

Claim 42 has been amended to clarify the scope of claim 42. Claims 43-45 have been amended to correspond to the clarification of claim 42.

In addition, the reference to the term "step" has been removed from the pending claims to avoid suggestion that the pending claims are drafted in step-plus-function language.

New Claims

Claims 54-60 are new. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 54-60 fall within the scope of elected Group I. Support for the new claims is at least found in paragraphs 75-81, thus no new matter has been added.

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CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully request consideration of the pending claims and a finding of their allowability. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Please feel free to contact the undersigned should any questions arise with respect to this case that may be addressed by telephone.


No fees are believed due with this submission, however, if a fee is deemed necessary, or if a refund is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit our Deposit Account 19-0733, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: May 23, 2005

By


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